

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Females between the ages of 16 to 24 are more vulnerable to intimate violence than any other age group at a rate almost triple the national average and, 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from at dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and,

Whereas, High school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide, engage in risky sexual behavior, unhealthy dieting behaviors, and the experience may disrupt normal development of self-esteem and body image; and,

Whereas, Nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds. Only 33 percent of teens ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81 percent of parents surveyed believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it is an issue; and,

Whereas, By providing young people education about healthy relationships, building relationship skills, and changing attitudes supporting violence, we recognize dating violence can be prevented, and by raising awareness among communities and provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and,

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 2011, as,

DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

n South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and continue to work for justice and compassion for all victims of dating violence.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State